

The National Strategic Plan to support a more efficient system of agriculture and forestry

More **COMPETITIVE FARMS** for the revitalization of the rural areas

In Italy there are about 1 million and seven hundred thousand farms, which produce goods for about 50 billion euros and which involve about 4 million people including owners, employees, families and seasonal workers. These large numbers confirm the important productive and social role of agriculture, but also display a strong fragmentation which affects the competitiveness of the system, with such problems as higher production costs, limited distribution of technological innovation, and a reduced bargaining power in the market.

It is on the consideration of these structural weaknesses that the National Strategic Plan for Rural Development is built.

The general objective is to enhance the overall food and forestry system in rural areas with a series of tools that aim at improving the aggregation of small farms, with such things as integrated planning and supply chain projects, to create networks among the different players in the food system.

There are many funding opportunities that can be accessed by farmers. At the regional level, over 7 billion euros of government grants have been allocated, a package of resources that is capable of activating just as many private investments.

Focus of the measures is to create conditions for:

- 1. Increasing the productivity of farms with measures aimed at reducing production costs and using more modern management techniques;**

2. Enhancing the farm facilities in rural areas for irrigation, logistics, energy and telematics;

3. Raising standards of product quality and increasing the added value of local products linked to the territory;

4. Encouraging innovation and modernization of farm processes to make them more efficient and sustainable from a standpoint of environmental impact;

5. Increasing opportunities for developing farms, both by promoting the new generation, and by using tools to increase the human capital.

A package of contributions equalling 7 billion euros to finance investment in farms

“AGRICULTURE BENEFITS EVERYONE”

The National Strategic Plan for rural development, drawn up by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, aims at supporting competitiveness in the sector, enhancing the environment, improving the quality of life in the rural areas and increasing the farms' potential sources of revenue. With 17.6 billion euros until 2013, co-financed by the European Union.



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"European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural Areas"
Information regarding application for funding available at www.reterurale.it or on your Region's website